

First 5 – Placer Funded Partner Contract Renewal Rating Scale

Context:

The California Children & Families Act, which established local First 5 Children and Families Commissions, requires that county Commissions use “outcome-based accountability to determine future expenditures” and that county Commissions “measure the outcome of county funded programs through the use of applicable, reliable indicators and review that information on a periodic basis as part of the public review of its strategic plan.”

First 5 – Placer values outcomes. The Commission diligently strives to adhere to the requirements in the California Children & Families Act by evaluating and renewing its service contracts annually based upon achievement of outcomes.

Background:

The First 5 – Placer evaluation process starts with the identification of the behavior and/or condition outcomes that our funded partner desires to achieve through services funded by First 5. Next, we identify the data (information) that the partner will collect that shows the degree to which outcomes are being achieved.

Neither First 5, nor the funded partner, can know if outcomes are being achieved if we don't have some way of measuring them. In order to measure them we need to collect data. But, the data is useless if we don't study it in relation to the intended outcomes. Thus, facilitated “Learning Conversations” are held periodically with each partner to review the data that has been collected.

The intent of the Learning Conversation is to provide a method to share and understand the data and to determine whether the intended outcomes are being met; in the process of being met; or, not being met.

First 5 – Placer values organizations that routinely review their outcome data and apply findings to improve services and outcomes. Given the critical nature of the first 5 years of life, our prenatal through 5 population deserves nothing less.

2008-09 Contract Renewal Rating Scale

Each year, the Commission affirms the criterion that is used in a rating scale to make contract renewal recommendations so that staff, consultants, and funded partners know what is expected.

In order to fully participate in the Learning Conversation evaluation process, funded partners must collect data, assemble the data so that others may review and understand it; and use the findings to improve services and/or outcomes. Traditionally, those partners that authentically participate in the Learning Conversation evaluation process and show some achievement of outcomes are recommended for refunding.

The contract renewal rating scale is used to assign a score of 1 to 5 for each partner. A rating of 5 is the best rating a partner can receive and means that the partner is clearly achieving outcomes; they are collecting and analyzing the data listed in their contract scope of work; they have integrated data collection into their work processes and review their data routinely; and, they are preparing for Learning Conversations on their own in a self-sustaining manner.

On the other end of the scale, a rating of 1 means that the partner is not following the contract scope of work in terms of collecting and analyzing the data. Consequently, there is no information to substantiate achievement of outcomes.

The following is the rating scale that will be used by staff to develop 2008 – 2009 contract renewal recommendations to the Commission:

Contract Renewal Rating Scale:

Rating of 5

- Collecting and reviewing all data listed in the contract
- Achievement of outcomes is clearly shown in the data
- Reviewing, preparing, analyzing, applying, and sharing data in a self-sustaining manner.

- ☒ A rating of 5 indicates that the contract is recommended to be renewed, and requires only one Learning Conversation per year.

Rating of 4

- Collecting and reviewing all data listed in the contract
- Achievement of outcomes is clearly shown in the data
- Reviewing, preparing, analyzing, applying, and sharing data with minimal dependence on First 5 - Placer staff/consultant.

- ☒ A rating of 4* indicates that the contract is recommended to be renewed.

Rating of 3

- Collecting the majority of data listed in contract
- Achievement of outcomes appears to be happening
- Moderately dependent on First 5 - Placer staff/consultant for review, preparation and analysis.

- ☑ A rating of 3* indicates that the contract is recommended to be renewed, but the agency needs to become self-sustaining in collecting data and showing outcomes during the term of the contract.

Rating of 2

- Collecting partial data listed in the contract
 - Achievement of outcomes not clear based on data
 - Completely dependent on First 5 - Placer staff/consultant for review, preparation and analysis.
- ☑ A rating of 2* indicates that this contract is recommended to be renewed for 6 months. At 3 months, the achievement and measurement of outcomes will be reviewed by the Community Resource Committee in a Learning Conversation to determine progress and to make a recommendation to the Commission on whether or not the contract should continue.

Rating of 1

- Not collecting data listed in the contract
 - Not achieving outcomes.
 - Does not initiate contact with First 5 - Placer staff/consultant.
- ☑ A rating of 1 indicates that this contract is not recommended to be renewed.

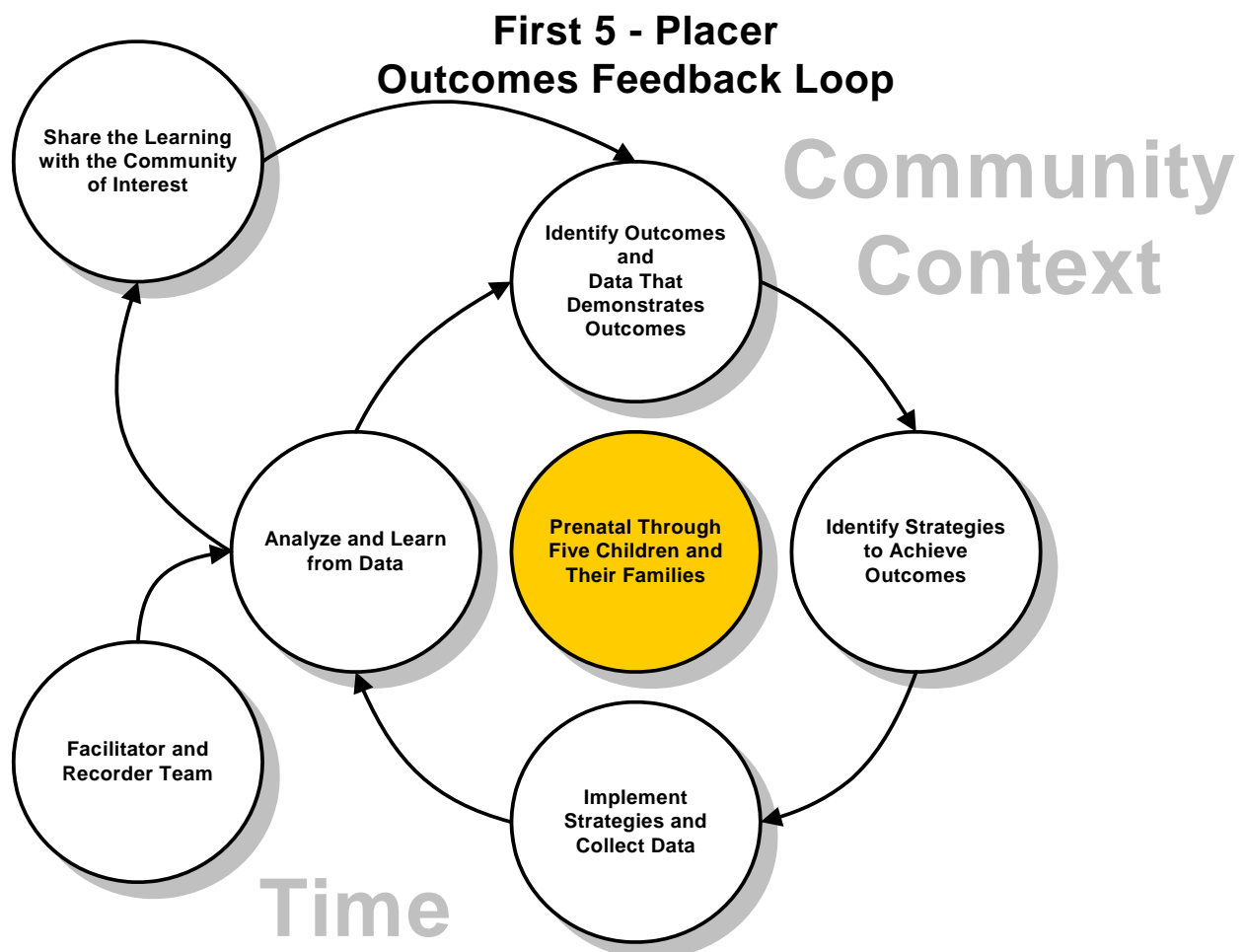
* Partners with a rating of 2, 3 or 4 will have a minimum of two Learning Conversations per year.



www.placer.ca.gov/cfc

What is a Learning Conversation on Achievement of Outcomes?

During the term of their contract with the First 5 – Placer Commission, each funded partner participates in a meeting to review performance measurement data that has been collected by the partner and to discuss achievement of the outcomes listed in their contract. A neutral third party facilitates the conversations using a method developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs known as the “Focused Conversation”. This method is also referred to as the “learning conversation.” A scribe or “Recorder” captures key points made during the conversation. At the end of the conversation the Recorder’s notes are reviewed to capture highlights and/or learning and any next steps that emerged. The Recorder’s notes are then sent electronically to the entire First 5 Partner Network.



To read previous Learning Conversation notes and for more information about the Learning Conversation go to www.placer.ca.gov/cfc and click on the section titled [Learning Conversations on Achievement of Outcomes](#)